BEFORE THE RAIN.

The blackcaps pipe among the reeds, And there'll be rain to follow; There is a murmur as of wind In every coign and hollow; The wrens do chatter of their fears

While swinging on the barley ears. Come, burry, while there yet is time, Pull up thy scarlet bonnet. Now, sweetheart, as my love is thine, There is a drop upon it. To trip it ere the storm hag weird

Doth pluck the barley by the beard! Lo! not a whit too soon we're housed; The storm witch vells above us: The branches rapping on the panes Seem not in truth to love us. And look where through the clover bush The nimble footed rain doth rush!

-Amelie Rives in Harper's LOVE IN MIDAIR.

I have just read in the columns of a newspaper a drama of passion. He killed her and then put an end to his own life, consequently he loved her. What matters he and she Their love alone interests me; not because ves or astonishes me, not because it touches my heart or sets me to musing, but because it brings a remembrance of my own young days, a strange recollection of a huntng trip, where Love appeared to me in midair, just as crosses appeared in the skies to the first Christians

I came into the world with all the instincts and feelings of the primitive man, tempered, however, by the reason and emotions of the civilized one. I am passionately fond of hunting, still the sight of a wounded animal, of blood on the feathers of a bird or on my hands, so thrills my heart that at times I

That year, at the end of autumn, cold by my cousin, Karl de Rauville, who invited me to go with him at daybreak to shoot ducks in the marshes.

My jolly cousin, a red haired, thick set and bearded country gentleman, 40 years old, an amiable semi brute with lively spirits, and richly endowed with that French wit which makes even mediocrity agreeable, dwelt in a sort of farm castle situated in a wide valley through which flowed a river. The hillsides to the right and left were covered with lordly forests in which remained magnificent trees, and where were to be found the rarest game birds known in that part of France.

Eagles were sometimes killed there; and birds of passage, which are seldom seen in our too densely peopled country, would in-variably halt in the venerable branches of the trees, as if they knew or recognized this little bit of a forest of olden times, which still remained there, to furnish them with a safe resting place during their short stay of a

night.

In the valley were great pastures, irrigated by little ditches and divided off by hedges; then further away, the river, no longer confined to its channel, spread out into an ex-tensive swamp. This moress, the finest hunting ground I ever saw, was my cousin's greatest concern and he kept it like a warren. In the thick, waving, rustling rushes that cov-ered its surface had been cut narrow passages, through which would noiselessly float flat bottomed boats propelled by long poles. As these went along, grazing the reeds on either side, the fish would be seen darting through the grass or moorhens diving out of sight in the twinkling of an eye.

I am passionately fond of the water. love the sea, notwithstanding it is so vast and so restless, the rivers so beautiful in their onward flow as they pass out of sight, and especially the morasses where palpitates the the entirely unknown life of the aquatic ani-mals. The morass is a complete world on the earth, an entirely different world-one which has its own species of life, its sedentary in habitants, its passing travelers, its voices its noises and especially its mysteries. Nothing is more perplexing, disturbing, and even at times more terrifying than a marsh. Why is it that a species of fright always seems to hover over those low, water covered plains? Why such uncertain noises among the reeds, such strange will-o'-the-wisps, the deep silence that prevails on calm nights, or thos fantastical fogs which sweep over the rushe like the shrouds of dead women, or still that imperceptible rippling so light, so soft and at times more terrifying than the cannon of man or the thunder of God! All these things name to res that we see in our dreams or those formidable regions which seem to conceal a dangerou ret never to be fathomed.

No. Something else is evolved from it. A graver, a deeper mystery floats through the heavy fog. It may be the history of the cre-ation itself. For was it not in muddy, stagnant water, in the heavily saturated ground lying exposed to the sun's heat that the first germ of life moved and wriggled?

I arrived at my cousin's in the evening. It was cold enough to split the rocks During dinner, which was set in a great oall, whose sideboards, walls and ceilings were covered with stuffed birds perched on branches or with extended wings, hawks, her-rons, owls, goatsuckers, tiercels, vultures, falcons, my cousin himself resembling some strange creature from a cold latitude, dressed as he was in scalskin garments, was detaili to me all the arrangements he had made for

that very night. We were to leave at 3:30, so as to reach at 4:30 the spot selected for our stand. A but built of blocks of ice had been constructed there to shield us a little against the terrible wind that blows just before daybreak, a wind freighted with an icy coldness which tears the sh as if with a saw, cuts as if with a sword blade, stings like nettles and burns like fire.

My cousin was rubbing his hands together.

"I have never seen such a freeze," said he; "it was already 12 degs below zero at 6 this

I went to bed right after dinner, and fell asleep in the glare of the great blaze faming up my chimney. I was called up at 3 o'clock. I put on a sheepskin overcoat, and found my cousin Karl clad in the fur of a bear. After swallowing two cups of coffee apiece, and as many glasses of champagne, we started off, followed by a gamekeeper and our dogs— Plongeon and Pierrot.

I had barely put my foot out of doors when I felt the cold penetrating my very bones. It was one of those nights when the earth mems dead with cold. The frozen air stings much that it feels unyielding, palpable not a breath of air moves it; it nips, goe through, dries up and kills trees, plants, in-sects, and even little birds, which tumble from the branches to the hard ground and become as hard as it themselves, through the effect of the cold. The moon, in her last quarter, leaning all to one side and pale, seems fainting in space, and so weak that she can no longer go on, but remains there seized by the cold, paralyzed by the rigor of the sky surrounding her. She sheds a dry, and light over the world, that dying, wan ner she gives us each month when near-

We were going along, side by side, Karl and I, our backs bent, our hands in our pockets and our guns under our arms. As we had drawn woolen stockings over our shoes to enable us to walk on the frozen river without slipping, we traveled along noise-lessly, I watching the little white clouds made by the breath of the dogs. We soon

reached the edge of the morass and started down an alley of dried rushes cutting through

Our elbows, grazing the long ribbonlike leaves, left behind us a slight noise, and I felt myself more than ever moved by that strange, powerful emotion which always possesses me while passing through a marsh. This one was dead, killed by the cold, since we were tramping along over it, between its dried up bullrushes.

All at once, at the end of one of the alleys, I saw the ice but which had been put up as a shelter for us. I entered, and as there was still an hour to spare before the birds would

awake and begin their flight, I endeavored to warm myself by rolling myself up in a

Then, lying on my back, I looked up at the n moon, which had four horns when riewed through the barely transparent walls

those walls of ice, from the bleak sky, soon penetrated my whole being to such an extent

penetrated my whole being to such an extent that I began to cough.

Cousin Karl became uneasy. "So much the worse if we kill nothing to sy," said he, "but I will not let you take cold in that may. I shall have a fire made." And he ordered that the count down reeds for that I shall have a nee mark. And he ordered the gamekeeper to cut down reeds for that purpose. A lot of there were piled up in a heap in the center of our hut, the top of which was broken in to allow the smoke to which was broken in to allow the smoke to escape. When the red flame bogan to arise along the clear crystal like partition it began to melt slowly, just as if those icy blocks were sweating. Karl, who had remained without, called to me, "Come and see!" I went to him and was struck with amazement. Our cone shaped hut looked like a monster diamond with a blazing center, which seemed to have suddenly arisen from the frozen water of the wamp. Within were two fantastic forms our dogs warming themselves by the fire.

our dogs warming themselves by the fire.

A strange cry, one of those wandering, lost cries, passed over our heads. The light of our fire was awaking the wild birds.

I am always impressed by that first outcry of living beings, flying so fast and so far through the dark atmosphere, before the first light of a winter's day breaks along the easthour of dawn, that this fi-eting cry, flying away on the wings of a bird, is a sigh breathed forth by the earth's soul. Karl cried out: "Put out the fire. Day is

In fact the sky was beginning to look pale, and flocks of ducks dragged across the sky rapid dark lines, which disappeared as quickly

as they appeared.

A flash lit up the darkness. Karl had just hot, and the two dogs sprang away gayly. Then every minute, now Karl, then my-self, we would take aim and fire at whatever lew above us, while Pierrot and Plongeon, out of breath and joyous, would bring to us the bleeding birds, whose eyes very frequently

the sun appeared at the end of the valley we began to think of returning home, when two birds with outstretched necks and extended wings slid through the air above our heads I fired. One of them fell, almost at my feet It was a silver bellied teal. Then, in space away up above me, a voice—the voice of a bird—cried out. It was a short, plaintive, eartrending cry, and the little creature the had been spared began flying around in the blue sky above us eyeing his dead companion that I was bolding in my hands.

Karl, one knee on the ground, was watch ing with an eager eye the movements of the bird, waiting for him to come within shot. "You have killed the female," said he, "the ale will not fly away."

Certainly be did not seem likely to fly off He kept on turning about us continuing his doleful cry. Never did the moan of suffering so rend my heart as did this desolate call, embling the reproachful lament, of that

creature lost in space.

At times, be would fly off from the threatening gun that followed his movements, seeming ready to continue his journey alone across the sky. Then again he would return, is if he could not go and leave his female be

"Throw the duck to the ground," said Karl he will soon come nearer. He did come near, in fact, reckless of danger, maddened by his love for that other

eature I had just killed. Karl fired; it was as if a string, keeping the bird swinging in midair, had been cut. I saw something black tumbling down; I heard amid the reeds the noise of a falling body. And Pierrot brought the bird to me I put both of them, cold and stiff already into the same game bag—and that very day I returned to Paris.—Guy de Maupassant:—

translated for the Times-Democrat. Head Up and Stomach In.

An erect bodily attitude is of vastly more portance to health than most people generally imagine. Crooked bodily positions tained for any length of time, are always injurious whether in the sitting, standing lying posture, whether sleeping or waking. To sit with the body leaning forward on th stomach, or to one side, with the heels elevated on a level with the hands, is not only in bad ste, but exceedingly detrimental to health; it cramps the stomach, presses the vital or gans, interrupts the free motion of the chest and enfeebles the functions of the abdominal and thoracic organs, and, in fact, unbalances the whole muscular system. Many children become slightly humpbacked or severely round shouldered by sleeping with the head on a high pillow. When any person finds it casier to sit or stand or walk or sleep in a crooked position than a straight one, such son may be sure his muscular system badly deranged, and the more careful he is to preserve a straight or upright positions, and get back again, the better.—People's Health Journal.

BOILED ICE CREAM

ome of the Chinese Delicacies Served

One of the attractions of Mott street on unday are the several Chinese watermelon stands. If one wishes to enjoy a genuine Oriental market sight, with stands and booths of nearly every description, crowded with Chinese patrons, he should pass through Mott street on a Sunday afternoon, say about 5 o'clock. The way the heathens get away with Christian watermelon is significant Without exaggeration on a single Sunday afternoon, between the hours of 4 and 8 p. m., at least two tons, or 4,000 pounds, of watermelons are devoured by the throat parched opium smokers. There are sever chinamen who keep watermelon stands, and each takes in from \$20 to \$50 per Sunday. They retail their melons at five cents a slice to their fellow countrymen. As many as forty Chinamen are often seen surrounding one stand, munching at huge chunks of well ripened "western pumpkins," as the Chinese

Then there are the Chinese peanut star that also do a big business at any time of the year. This is because the Chinese cook their peanuts in sait water. They are boiled until they become mellow. Even the Chinese roasted peanuts are much superior to those produced by the core of superior superior. produced by the sons of sunny Italy, because the nuts are soaked in salt for thirty-six hours before they are put through the roast-er. The watermelon seeds are similarly treated, and they serve among the Mongo-lians of Gotham as a very dainty dish at their great dinners, as, instead of smoking cigars, the Chinese guests sit down and cruck

rmelon seeds. The sugar cane stands also do a rushing business, as do the Chinese "Leon fun" or ice cream stands. This Chinese ice cream is somewhat different from any other kind of ice cream. In the first place it has no ice in it, and in the second place there is no cream; but it is called Leon fun or "cold" cream or jelly, and it is really the next thing that answers to ice cream among the 400,000,000 of beathens in China. The Chinese are so fond of it that even the real article here has failed to supersede it. This "Leon fun" is made of a species of light stuff, very much like Amer-ican blanc mange. It is boiled very thin with brown sugar and set in cold water until it congeals and then cut up in dice shaped small squares. A few spoonfuls of this is put into a bowl, a kind of thin, cool sweet-end sance is noured over it and the whole ed sauce is poured over it, and the whol ened sauce is poured over it, and the whom of this peculiar mixture is sold for a Chris-tian nickel. The Mott street fantan players call it boiled rice.—Wong Chin Foo in New York World.

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